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We are not unaware of the troublesome disturbances which have taken place in certain quarters, whose effect upon one is naturally of the opposite character. But even these are much less discouraging than similar occurrences formerly were. They disturb very little the steady course of the world. The Moroccan campaign has practically ended, having been called off by the government because of the strong and widespread opposition of the Spanish people, an opposition not to the immediate war only, but clearly to war in general. The miserable condition of affairs in Nicaragua, which is now substantially ended, has been chiefly striking as an exceptional example of what was formerly almost the normal state within the Latin-American countries. This revolution has set out in clear light the fact that in nearly all the states to the south of us settled order is now the rule. At any rate, this is the case between them, if not so fully within them.

The tension between Great Britain and Germany, in spite of the continued laying down of Dreadnaughts, has within a few weeks perceptibly decreased, and the responsible statesmen of both countries, as well as large groups of the citizens of both, are devoting themselves to the removal of misunderstandings and the restoration of confidence and friendly feeling. The recent declaration of Count von Bernstorff of Germany, Ambassador at Washington, as to the colonial policy of Germany, an utterance which has been supported by the Foreign Office in Berlin, has done not a little to hasten the restoration of good feeling between Germany and Great Britain.

As to the relations of this country with Japan, the solid spirit of amity and goodwill has become so manifest and dominating, through the utterances of responsible officials of both countries, especially those of Japan, that even Congressman Hobson has not been able, by his recent speech in the House of Representatives, to produce the least repetition of the flurry of two years ago.

We may well then begin the New Year's work with increased hope and courage. The constructive side of our peace movement is clearly stronger and more sure of itself than ever before. The institutions growing out of the Hague Conferences are going on to completion as fast as one could reasonably hope, and the outcome of their completion will, by general agreement, be the beginning of the era of universal and permanent peace. It is true that the rivalry of armaments between the great powers still continues, and that the burdens imposed thereby on the peoples are becoming heavier and heavier. But on the other hand the opposition to this rivalry is developing with great rapidity, and if this opposition continues to grow, the day is not very far off when the whole business of competitive arming will collapse and the peoples begin to breathe freely after

being relieved of the heavy load under which they have so long been staggering.

Our work, then, for the coming year is very clear and definite. We must first of all continue to develop and concentrate public opinion in behalf of the great measures which the nations have undertaken to carry through in the Hague Conferences. Vast numbers of people still have very little idea of what the movement means. They must be aroused, instructed, and their coöperation secured. Again, every possible influence must be brought to bear upon the governments to make the third Hague Conference, which is not very far away, still more powerful and complete in its results than its predecessors have been. We must further continue our protest against the spirit of injustice and disrespect between nations and peoples, which still remains to so great an extent as the unfortunate legacy of the ages of universal war. We must likewise not cease to point out and protest against the irrational and ruinous character of the great preparations for war which the nations are making, and the baseness and folly of the spirit out of which these spring. The task before us is still a great one, and it is no time to rest on our oars. The great work of realizing our best ideals for the world requires the consecration and constant use of all our faculties and all our resources.

The President's Message.

President Taft's first annual message, read to Congress on December 7, gives the usual prominence to the relations of the United States with other nations. These relations, he declares, "have continued upon the normal basis of amity and good understanding, and are very generally satisfactory." That is a simple statement, but what a world of meaning it contains!

Prominent among the events touching foreign relations was the special agreement entered into January 27, 1909, for the submission of the North Atlantic Coast fisheries questions to a tribunal made up of members of the Hague Court of Arbitration. He recites that on October 4 the printed case of each government was presented to the other, and that the counter case of the United States is now in course of preparation. The settlement of this controversy, which involves interests of great importance to the American fishing industry, will remove a source of constant irritation and complaint. The case is, he declares, the first one involving such great international questions which has been submitted to the Hague Court.

He recalls the appointment of two commissioners, under the provisions of the treaty of April 11, 1908, to define and mark the boundary between the United States and Canada in the waters of the Passamaquoddy Bay. The commissioners have failed to agree, and arbitration will now be resorted to, as provided in the treaty.

The International Fisheries Commission, appointed in accordance with the treaty of April 11, 1908, has completed a system of uniform and common regulations for the preservation of the food-fishes in the international boundary waters of the United States and Canada.

The Convention of January 11, 1909, providing for the settlement of differences between the United States and Canada, including the apportionment between the two countries of certain of the boundary waters, etc., though approved by the Senate, has not yet been ratified by the British government.

A joint commission to examine the question of obstructions in the St. John River, between Maine and New Brunswick, is now engaged in this work.

Negotiations with Great Britain, Japan and Russia are in progress for an international conference to effect an arrangement for the preservation of the fur seals in the North Pacific. The President believes that a satisfactory settlement of this question will be reached.

The results of the Conference of London, December 2, 1908, to February 26, 1909, to determine the rules of law for the use of the Prize Court provided for by the second Hague Conference, Mr. Taft considers to be eminently satisfactory, and he hopes that the Declaration of London will be generally adopted.

The United States participated in the Maritime Law Conference at Brussels in September last, the result of which was a convention for the unification of certain regulations with regard to maritime assistance and salvage, and of certain rules with regard to collisions at sea.

Further paragraphs treat of the International Conference called by The Netherlands to promote uniform legislation concerning letters of exchange; the invitation of Belgium to be represented at the World's Fair to be held at Brussels this year; the Belgian annexation of the Independent State of the Kongo; a convention between the United States and Germany providing for the placing of American inventors on the same footing as German nationals; the investigation of affairs in Liberia; a conference of powers called by Norway for the purpose of remedying existing conditions in the Spitzbergen islands; the condition of affairs in Turkey under the new régime; and various matters of interest to this country in several of the Latin-American states, particularly Mexico, the Argentine Republic, Chile, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

A section of the message deals with the Far East, and reaffirms the policy of this government to be to continue to support the principle of equality of opportunity and scrupulous respect for the integrity of the Chinese Empire, to which the interested powers of both the East and the West are pledged. The President believes that the action of China in devoting a portion of the indemnity remitted by the United States to sending students to this

country will have a most happy effect upon the relations of the two countries.

The recital of the details of all these dealings with foreign countries would take more space than we have at disposal. Their great number and the time which the Department of State has devoted to them is a striking illustration of the rapid growth of international transactions, and the fine spirit in which the negotiations have been carried on, on the part of all the governments, is a signal proof that the internationalism of our time is already for the most part firmly rooted in justice, mutual respect, friendly coöperation and a determination to preserve peace. From this point of view the message gives large encouragement.

The President's declaration that he has insisted on a reduction in the estimates of the War Department for the coming fiscal year, bringing the total estimates down to an amount forty-five millions less than the corresponding estimates last year, is most interesting. This he has done to try to avoid a deficit, but he fears that the measures taken can hardly be more than temporary. One cannot help asking, Why not? If the reduction is actually carried out according to his wish, he may discover within twelve months that, if it is wise and safe to do this now for economy's sake, it may be equally or even more wise to do it again next year for economic and other still higher reasons. The experiment may and probably will show a lot of things which the militarists have persistently refused to believe.

The same may be said substantially of the President's utterances in regard to the navy. He has directed the curtailment of recommendations for naval appropriations so that they are thirty-eight millions less than the corresponding estimates of last year.

This brave step of Mr. Taft in directing the curtailment of estimates for the army and the navy together to eighty-three millions less than last year is a notable one. It will meet with the cordial approval of the great majority of the people of the country, who have grown tired of seeing these budgets mount up higher and higher each year, with no substantial reasons for the increase. If he had ventured to go a step further, and had recommended that no new battleships be added to the navy the coming year, he would have reduced the estimates for army and navy to more than a hundred millions less than they were last year, and thus have pleased the people still more. It is something to be most grateful for that he has dropped the four-battleship program on which his predecessor insisted so strenuously and has recommended only two first-class battleships. We hope that the Naval Committee of the House will treat his recommendation as it did that of Mr. Roosevelt last year, and cut the number of ships in two,

or, better still, refuse to recommend the addition of any new ships. If Congress follows the lead which the President has given, as we feel almost sure will be the case, the day is not far distant when our country will be happily out of the insensate rivalry in naval armament into which it has been so unfortunately drawn. The sooner the nation is out of it the better, and the present Congress could not do a more patriotic and honorable thing than to put an end to increase of the navy before it adjourns.

The Nobel Peace Laureates for 1909.

On the 10th of December, the anniversary of the birth of Alfred Nobel, the founder of the Nobel Prizes, the Committee of the Norwegian Parliament, which has the administration of the Foundation, again awarded the Peace Prize. The award as usual was made in the Chamber of the Parliament House in the presence of a distinguished company of people, including the King and many of the leading public men of Norway.

The Prize, as has happened several times before, was divided. Half of it was given to Baron d'Estournelles de Constant of France and half to Auguste Beernaert of Belgium. In both cases it was fittingly bestowed, as all who know the recipients will at once concede.

Senator d'Estournelles de Constant's services to the cause of international goodwill and peace have been many and varied. He has been for years a member of the French International Arbitration Society, coöperating heartily with its president, the distinguished French Apostle of Peace, Frédéric Passy, one of the two to receive the prize the first year that it was awarded. Senator d'Estournelles de Constant is the founder of the International Arbitration Group in the French Parliament, the strongest of all the national arbitration groups of statesmen. He has been one of the leaders in the work of the Interparliamentary Union, his report on the subject of armaments being one of the chief features of the conference of the Union at Westminster, London, in the year 1906. He represented France in both the Hague Conferences and is one of the four French members of the International Arbitration Court at The Hague. He is the founder and the president of the Association for International Conciliation, which has branches in this and other countries and is doing much for the promotion of better understanding and friendly relations between the nations. He has been one of the three or four men most prominent in the promotion of international visits of statesmen and others. He himself has visited many countries, including the United States, where his services at the New York National Peace Congress were so warmly appreciated. In France he has been the leader of the opposition to the current ri-

valry of armaments, and both in the Chamber of Deputies and later in the Senate his speeches on this subject have been among the strongest and most constructive delivered anywhere in recent years.

Mr. Beernaert, though not so prominent as Senator d'Estournelles de Constant in distinctive peace work, and more conservative in his views, having been in his earlier years a decided supporter of war, has in his way in recent years done excellent service for the cause; for indirect services in the peace movement are often almost as efficient in the long run as the direct ones. The foremost statesman in Belgium, long president of the Chamber of Deputies, and a member of the Council of Ministers of State, he has made Belgium a power in the councils of international arbitration. He has been president of the International Law Association, and active in its work nearly ever since its organization, thirty-six years ago. He represented his government in both the Hague Conferences and is a member of the Hague Court. In the first Hague Conference he was one of the five or six distinguished men — Baron de Staal, Andrew D. White, Sir Julian Pauncefote, Léon Bourgeois and Frederick de Martens being the others — who gave animus and direction to its work and made it, in the face of many difficulties, a memorable success. It was fitting that Mr. Beernaert, now in advanced life, should have received this high recognition of his great services as a statesman of peace.

We extend our warmest congratulations to both these Nobel Peace Laureates, and commend their tireless, unselfish, and every way noble services to the cause of humanity as an example to the younger men now in political life.

Secretary Meyer's One Mill to the Dollar.

Lucia Ames Mead has replied, in a letter to the *Boston Herald*, to Secretary of the Navy Meyer's effort to show that the United States navy costs a mere bagatelle in comparison with the total wealth of the country. Her letter is as follows:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:

"Secretary Meyer, in his report on the navy, likens it to national 'insurance' — a word which implies payment to make good a loss. As this is something that navies never made, the term is misleading. If, however, we substitute the word 'protection,' which is probably what was meant, the Secretary's argument as to the relative cost of the navy to the wealth it protects seems even more misleading. Taking the valuation of the total wealth of the country, he shows an average annual expenditure of only \$0.0012 on the dollar for the support of the navy.

"It is an ingenious statement, literally correct, but conveying a wholly false impression. It leaves the average reader, who knows nothing further on the